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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/410,606	10/01/1999	DAVID ALAN EDWARDS	99-TK-239	7114

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EXAMINER

MASKULINSKI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2184

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/410,606

Applicant(s)

EDWARDS ET AL.

Examiner

Michael C Maskulinski

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 and 5. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 3-5, and 7 objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a. In claim 3, *wherein the processor is further configured transmit* should be changed to *wherein the processor is further configured to transmit*.
 - b. In claim 4, *wherein the processor is further configured transmit* should be changed to *wherein the processor is further configured to transmit*.
 - c. In claim 5, *wherein the processor is further configured transmit* should be changed to *wherein the processor is further configured to transmit*.
 - d. In claim 7, *to the debug circuit an signal* should be changed to *to the debug circuit a signal*, and *from a processor identifier value* should be changed to *from a process identifier value*.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 12-14, 16, 23-25, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Razban, U.S. Patent 5,289,587.

Referring to claims 1, 12, and 23, in column 2, lines 39-62, Razban discloses in-circuit emulation by providing a microprocessor's (at least one processor) program

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counter external to the device on a dedicated bus (a system bus coupling the processor and debug circuit). An emulator (a debug circuit) can then readily generate a list of executed instruction addresses by simply monitoring the bus.

Referring to claims 2, 13, and 24, in column 4, lines 28-34, Razban discloses that the program counter register contains the virtual address of the first byte of the instruction currently being executed by the microprocessor. The address value contained in the program counter is incremented to point to the next instruction only when the microprocessor completes execution of the current instruction. Therefore, the program counter has a value corresponding to a value of the program counter at a writeback stage of a pipeline of the processor.

Referring to claims 3, 14, and 25, in column 4, lines 53-61, Razban discloses that if an exception occurs during execution of an instruction (indicating the status of computer instruction), the microprocessor will trap via its conventional trap mechanism.

Referring to claims 5, 16, and 27, in column 4, lines 35-47, Razban discloses that the microprocessor provides the value (a value indicating the program counter) of the virtual program counter register for each executed instruction (program counter is incremented).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 10, 15, 21, 26, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Razban, U.S. Patent 5,289,587, and further in view of Levine et al., U.S. Patent 5,862,371.

Referring to claims 4, 15, and 26, in column 2, lines 39-62, Razban discloses in-circuit emulation by providing a microprocessor's (at least one processor) program counter external to the device on a dedicated bus (a system bus coupling the processor and debug circuit). An emulator (a debug circuit) can then readily generate a list of executed instruction addresses by simply monitoring the bus. However, Razban doesn't explicitly disclose indicating that the computer instruction is a first instruction past a branch instruction. In column 3, lines 41-55, Levine et al. disclose an indication of whether or not a branch instruction was taken or not taken. Indicating that a branch was taken indicates that the next instruction is a first instruction past a branch instruction because the instruction after the branch was taken is found at the address in memory that is branched to. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to include the branch indication of Levine et al into the system of Razban. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification because *performance projections for processor systems and memory subsystems are important for a correct understanding of work loads within the system. An instruction trace is generally utilized to determine distribution of instructions, identification of register dependencies, branch path analyses and timing* (see Levine et al.: column 3, lines 28-33).

Referring to claims 10, 21, and 32, in column 3, lines 41-57, Levine et al. disclose an internal performance monitor within the processor system (components of microcomputer implemented on the same integrated circuit).

5. Claims 6-9, 17-20, and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Razban, U.S. Patent 5,289,587, and further in view of Mann, U.S. Patent 6,314,530.

Referring to claims 6, 17, and 28, in column 2, lines 39-62, Razban discloses transmitting a program counter to an emulator for debugging purposes. However, Razban doesn't explicitly disclose transmitting a process identifier value. In column 21, lines 3-51, Mann discloses tracing multi-tasking operating systems through the use of task ID's (process identifier value). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to include the task identification information of Mann into the debug system of Razban. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification because in a typical system multiple tasks or processes are running at the same time (a pipeline). *In order to know which task is now being traced, the operating system examines the task control block and writes some content (e.g., the task ID) from the task control block into the trace memory to identify the task or thread* (see Mann: column 21, lines 39-44).

Referring to claims 7, 18, and 29, in column 21, lines 34-51, Mann discloses that an operating system can identify an application task or thread switch in the trace memory by entering a code into a user defined TCODE indicating the task ID or thread ID that is being switched to or that was switched from (signal indicating that a current

process identifier value differs from a processor identifier value of a previously-executed instruction).

Referring to claims 8, 9, 19, 20, 30 and 31, in column 4, lines 8-28, Mann discloses that the trace memory (memory-mapped register) has a plurality of locations for storing trace information that indicates execution flow of a plurality of instructions in the processor (program counter).

6. Claims 11, 22, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Razban, U.S. Patent 5,289,587, and further in view of Flynn, U.S. Patent 5,642,479. In column 2, lines 39-62, Razban discloses providing a microprocessor's program counter value external to the system. However, Razban doesn't explicitly disclose transmitting a value indicating an amount by which the program counter is incremented. In column 1, lines 49-54, Flynn discloses a trace address increment signal generating means for generating a trace address increment signal upon said trace bus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to include the increment signal of Flynn into the debugging system of Razban. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification because *the provision of a trace address increment signal enables a narrower trace bus to be used. Such a signal, which may be a single bit, is all that is required* (see Flynn: column 2, lines 9-14). Further, in column 5, lines 41-67 continued in column 6, lines 1-2, Flynn discloses signals that indicate the trace is sequential and can be incremented (incrementing the program counter by a value depending upon a mode signal).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

In U.S. Patent 5,493,723, Beck et al. disclose a processor with in-system emulation circuitry, which uses the same group of terminals to output program counter bits.

In U.S. Patent 5,978,937, Miyamori et al. disclose a microprocessor and debug system.

In U.S. Patent 6,058,393, Meier et al. disclose a dynamic connection to a remote tool in a distributed processing system environment used for debugging.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C Maskulinski whose telephone number is (703) 308-6674. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 7:30-5 and Fri. 7:30-4 (second Fri.).

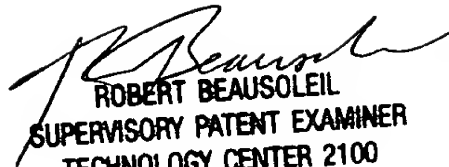
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Beausoliel can be reached on (703) 305-9713. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3718 for regular communications and (703) 305-3718 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

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MM
April 16, 2002


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